administrative jurisdiction of the State Govemments/UT Administrations.

(c) State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to provide, a minimum of 20 kg. of foodgrains per month per family to the population living in the Blocks identified under RPDS. While this quantity is a desired target, the actual offtake by each tribal household would depend on a number of factors such as purchasing power of the family, open market availability and prices of food-grains including coarse grains and the family's own production for consumption.

Fall in price of coconut oil

4258. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for the sharp up trend of prices of edible oils other than coconut oil during 1993-94 ;

(b) what are the reasons for the fall in price of coconut oil; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to purchase coconut oil in order to protect the interests of coconut growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED) : (a) Some of the reasons for the sharp up trend in the prices of edible oils other than coconut oil during 1993-94 are as follows :—

(i) delayed arrival of rabi crops;

(ii) less carry over stock of edible oils ;

(iii) reported hoarding by farmers and oilseed growers' co-operatives to get lucrative prices; and

(iv) increase in demand for edible oils.

(b) The reasons attributed to fall in prices of coconut oil are increased production of coconut oil and various measures taken by Coconut Development Board like expansion of area under coconut by providing subsidy for new planting in various States viz. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman Nicobar Islands ; production and distribution of hybrid seedlings.

(c) No, Sir.

Consumer Welfare Fund

4259. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a consumer welfare fund;

(b) if so, what is the total consumer funds so far distributed among the States;

(c) what was the main aim and objectives of this fund ;

(d) whether various organisations have also been asked to apply for the fund;

(e) if so, what are the conditions that are being imposed in utilising the funds;

(f) whether the objectives of the fund for which this was set up has been achieved ; and

(g) if 60, the details thereof indicating the amount of assistance being provided so far (State-wise) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil—Applications have been invited upto 31-5-1994.

(c) The overall objectives of the Consumer Welfare Fund is to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and to strengthen the voluntary consumer movement particularly in the rural areas.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. According to the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, various organisations/agencies which are engaged in the consumer welfare activities for a period of three years and are registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or under any other law for the time being in force,